

MARCH
2022

The Encounter

Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church



"Proclaiming Christ Crucified"
Established 1892

Our Mission

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Don't forget about our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 1st, starting at 5:00 pm in McSwain Center. A love offering will be taken.



WIHN Meals

We are scheduled to provide meals for WIHN families March 13th-19th. Be sure to check for details in the Commons starting March 1st for your opportunity to sign-up.

March OWLs Luncheon

Thursday, March 24 - 11:30 a.m. in McCombs Hall

The menu will consist of meatloaf, fried pork chops, mashed potatoes, green beans, mac-n-cheese, salad, rolls, and peach cobbler. Tea, coffee, and water for beverages. Cost is \$15 per person, and a sign-up sheet is posted on the big board in the Commons.



Don't forget to sign up for the Lenten Prayer Retreat on Saturday, March 5th from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m., with Kelly Schumacher. Kelly is a Lutheran liturgical artist from St. Louis MO and will be our guest teacher for the weekend. Kelly will teach three sessions on Saturday morning about art in the Church. She will also teach a combined adult Sunday School class at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 6th. Kelly is known through her work at www.adcrucem.com. A registration fee \$15 helps to defray costs. A grant from the Endowment Fund will help cover housing and travel expenses. A sign-up sheet is posted on the big board in the Commons.



Servant Lunch and Training Event

March 13, 12:30-2:00 pm

We will train (and retrain) lectors (readers), Altar Guild members, crucifers, book bearers, and acolytes. Confirmed youth may serve as lectors, ushers, and Altar Guild members.

In addition to serving as lectors, ushers, and altar guild members, adults may also serve as crucifers and book bearers (for festival services).

Please sign up in the Commons for lunch and training.



First Communion Class will be April 3rd, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

At least one parent will need to attend class with each student. Pizza and soft drinks, juice, or water will be provided along with take-home materials. The pastor suggests that First Communion be received on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022.



A huge thank you from the Youth Group...

to our church family for supporting our Valentines Dinner fundraiser. Special thanks to Liz Rappold and Karen Schmoke of the Fellowship Team!

Mark your calendars for our next fundraiser...a Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, April 30th. More details to come soon!

Greetings from Pastor Sam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

My mother was my age in 1989, and she wanted to go to her 50th high school reunion in New Jersey. She had been widowed at fifty-three after thirty-one years of marriage. She had retired from the local V.A. Hospital at sixty-two, learned she needed more money than she had coming in monthly, and had been doing private-duty nursing for a quadriplegic, comatose woman. Mom decided she would take a road trip that Dad and she had talked about. She would go to her reunion, visit the baseball museum in Cooperstown NY, and spend time with a niece who was doing summer stock theater in Massachusetts.

Mom set out on her road trip with no C.B. radio and certainly no cell phone. When she stopped for gas, she had a full-service station attendant check her oil, tires, and coolant. She stayed overnight wherever she wanted and would call one of her daughters each night to let the rest of the family know she was OK. She listened to AM radio in the car or to absolutely nothing and would pray. That 68-year-old woman did just fine on a largely unscheduled three-week road trip in which she drove 4,000 miles. In today's culture, such a trip would be unthinkable for many. You had to know our stubborn Mom.

So, what kind of spiritual road trip will you take this Lent? Might you only use your cell phone for emergencies or only to return calls twice a day? Might you give up social media entirely? Might you turn off the noise in your car, your home, and your life? Our daughter is the only 8th grader she knows who doesn't have her own cell phone. She hasn't died from it, and she probably has been spared more than a little grief by not listening to or reading nasty messages. Middle school is hard enough as it is.

What if, this Lent, you *actually* prayed daily and read the Bible by praying all 150 psalms over the course of a month? If you want an easy guide, purchase Volume 3 of *For All the Saints* (a breviary) at <https://alpb.org/books/for-all-the-saints-a-prayer-book-for-and-by-the-church>. Why else should you buy this book? You also get four readings for each day (three from the Bible) and orders for daily prayer. *For All the Saints* (FATS) makes it easier to be disciplined in your prayer and Bible reading habits.

What if you *actually* worshiped more than weekly (or weakly) by bringing your family and yourself to the services of God's house on both the weekend and midweek Lent? Parents, did you not promise this very thing when you obeyed the Lord's command to baptize your children? Have you been really lazy?

What if you served *intentionally* at St. Matthew's and beyond this Lent? Need ideas? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you. If you pray the psalms and read the daily readings after you ask, He will show you.

What if you *intentionally* had spiritual relationships in which you were growing in Christ together? Easy answer. Attend adult Sunday School. Harder answer. Get with a friend by phone, by Skype, or (gasp) in person to pray the psalms together and (gasp) talk about them.

What if you *intentionally* increased your giving of treasure to Christ's Church? If you serve at and beyond St. Matthew's, you will give time and talent. If you give up alcohol or that Starbucks coffee or bottled or fountain soda, you will have more treasure to return to the One who gave it.

Mom survived her road trip and so did her four anxious adult children. She had a grand time, felt close to Daddy as she traveled, and came home with great stories to tell. Have a great Lenten road trip, ya'll.

I love you,



Pr. Sam Zumwalt+
szumwalt@bellsouth.net

Progress Report on our Affiliation
From the Executive Team
February 2022

March 5th is the date the NC Synod Council meets and will discuss our release from the ELCA. Abbreviated highlights from their December 3-4, 2021 Zoom meeting referenced approval of “the development of a strategy to evaluate and respond to requests by congregations to disaffiliate”. This was necessary since many members of the current Council were not aware of the disaffiliation process prescribed in the ELCA Model Constitution.

Until then, we continue in prayer, hopeful to be released and complete this leg of our journey. Please consider attending the Lenten Prayer Retreat, also held on March 5th, to be in prayer and fellowship with each other and learn about Christian art.

This month, we would like to turn our attention to **STEWARDSHIP**. Our discipleship statement that we recite every week at the end of worship says that we will strive to give of our **TIME, TALENT and RESOURCES**. So how do we actually carry out that statement?

Just take a look at our Constitution and Bylaws in the areas of how we serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. These won't be changing with a new denomination. There are **12 Standing Teams, 7 Special Teams and 2 Ministry Teams** that call for members to serve using their **TIME and TALENT**.

The **Special Teams** are specifically appointed individuals, and we have an excellent group of people who have answered the calls (literally) from your Council President when asked to serve. Thank you for helping us to continue these vital ministries! The Special Teams are: Endowment, Financial Audit, Pastoral Support, Parish Records Audit, Seminary Scholarship, Nominating and Long Range Planning. **We are still in need of 3 individuals to serve 2-year terms on the Long Range Planning Team!**

Our **Standing Teams** could really use more people to join them and share your knowledge, talents, and desire to serve our Lord. These teams include: Evangelism, Fellowship, Finance, Foreign Mission, Parish Education, Personnel, Property & Facilities, Social Ministry, Stewardship, Technology, Worship & Music, and Youth Ministry. There are no elections, appointments or terms of service for any of these teams, so please find an area where you would like to serve!

We currently have **2 Ministry Teams**: Christkindlmarkt and Stephen Ministry, but occasionally form others as specific needs arise.

We will have more information posted on the Council Bulletin Board in the hallway to help you learn about the work of each team and who to contact to get involved. **BECAUSE OF JESUS...we SERVE!**

Yours in Christ,
Beth Hales, President
Todd Shaver, Vice President
Jeff Hollamon, Secretary
Carol Roller, Treasurer
Sam Zumwalt, Senior Pastor

Hospice Meals Program

Thank you to all who have signed up so far to supply meals for Hospice! Dates still open are: August 26, October 28, November 25, and December 23. Interested in helping? Sign up on the board in the Commons or email Sue Mowrey at mowreysu@gmail.com.



A Note from WELCA...

Effective immediately we will no longer be collecting “Box Tops for Education” since they are now digital by scanning receipts. Thank you for all the box tops donated over the years to help the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Arizona. Thank you also to Loretta Brehm for all her help collecting and mailing the box tops to the school.



Gifts to Honor and Remember

IN MEMORY OF JAMES HARSHBARGER, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Dr. and Mrs. John Harshbarger, Sandy O'Donnell, Rick and Laura Fritz, Nancy Thompson, Calvin and Shannon Wells, Jeffrey Newell, Anna K. Harshbarger and family; a gift to the Organ Fund by Grace, Kathy, and Mike Koder; a gift to the Contingency Fund by Joe and Diane Rumsey; a gift to the General Fund by Jack Kuske; a gift to C-ing the Way/Office Renovations by Charles and Darlene Schucker.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM "PAT" WALTERS, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Brigitte Walters.

IN MEMORY OF FRANK FAUSER, a gift to C-ing the Way Forward by Joe and Diane Rumsey.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY MALONSON, a gift to Pastor's Discretionary by Fred and Ana Maria Jackson.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLSTROOP 2501, a gift to the Building Fund by the Rutland family.



Donna and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and kind wishes during my recent hospitalization and rehabilitation. We'd also like to thank everyone who transported Donna to and from the hospital, and to and from Peak Resources where I received rehabilitation. Thank you to all of you and God bless.

Greg Adams



1	Maggie Oxford
6	Peggy Barr
6	Doris Isaacs
7	Dianne Zenz
10	Ken Shea
10	Matt vanderWal
11	Laura Gray
11	Suzanne Asmus
11	Barbara Ervin
11	Barbara Haack

12	Linda Andron
14	Elsie Cates
14	Sandy O'Donnell
17	Ron Funke
19	Carolyn Hooker
19	Ilana Baldwin
19	Jake Wade
20	Ben Stroehl
21	Max Banning
24	Joanne Johnson
24	Judi Funke
24	Dave Sundberg
25	Nina Roshon
28	Delores Irenze
28	Nate Holway
30	Emily Burke
31	Joe Rumsey



2	Elizabeth & Bryce Gains
6	Walt & Loretta Brehm
6	Alex & Chris Schwartz
7	Rick & Laura Fritz
8	Nate & Linda Holway



Our Christian sympathy is extended to...

The family of James Harshbarger.
Gabriela Walters and family on the death of her husband, William "Pat" Walters.
Nancy Fauser and family on the death of her husband, Frank Fauser.
Paul and Bev Miller on the death of their sister-in-law, Betsy Miller.
Walt and Loretta Brehm, and family, on the death of their granddaughter, Rachel Thompson.
Bob and Elaine Willow, on the death of Bob's cousin, Gladys Banks.
The family of Caroland McFarlane.

MEMBERS:

Nancy Fauser	Lon Ostby	Daniel Sparks
Regina Ryder	Laura Matthess	Erika Braje
Keith Farmer	Micki Matthess	Terry Miller
Donna Siegmund	Jane and Willard Dove	Marcie Schedler
Kenn Slocum	Ed Ludacer	John Tullous
Harry Comeskey	Joanne Johnson	Alex Schwartz
Pat Mahl	Margaret French	Janet and Denis Hall
Liz Newbery	Maureen Richey	Peggy Davis
George Schwenzer	Leslie Long	Ruth Rice
Helen Knoll	Patty Macino	Barbara Duff
Arthur and Barbara Moore	Al Scheidt	Greg Adams
Laura Gray	Carrie McDonough	Frank Felter
Lani Beuerman	Gabriela Walters	Ken Manning
Pr. Marv Schedler	Brigitte Walters	Howard Beuerman
Judy Benson	Carol Comeskey	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

Amie Knauer	August Hopper	Jo Beth Brinkley
Albert Rossetti	Kattie Duff	Jackie Horne
Jerry Knoll	David Schwartz	Donna Lawhorn
Journey Heyer	Ronnie Carter	Eileen Carzon
Lisa Holgerson	Gunder Peterson	Bill and Dot Pearson
Richard Truax	Vinny Swidorski	Hudson Dingfelder
Paul Rady	John Tullous, Jr.	Jeff James
Crosby James Asher	Tonya Reeves	Rod Andrew
Tracy Boandl	Cannon Helms	Julia Jewell
Bishop Mayfield	Lynne Bryson	Laurena Sundberg
Jean Langrall	Glen Lindner	
Stan Brunt, Sr.	David Hunsberger	
Barbara Colton	Sally Przybranowski	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Elsie Cates	Ruthann Getsinger	Jane McDougald
Margaret French		



Preparing for Our Final Days

February 15th was the first of two seminars presented by St. Matthew's Stephen Ministry to talk about how to honor our loved ones by making sure we have prepared for the day we leave this life. Preparing such things as wills and making funeral arrangements in advance is a way of expressing our love for our loved ones. It is making it so when death comes, we will not leave our loved ones in the lurch. Preparation NOW means that when the time comes, our loved ones won't have to worry about making decisions about what to do. They will miss us enough, and they don't need to be burdened with making the myriads of decisions that they will face.

At the February seminar, Jason Clamme, from Lower Cape Fear Life Care, covered hospice care. Pastor Sam also spoke and helped all of us know what to do when death comes. Using his many years of experience in helping people, he provided much good advice for us to consider.

The second seminar is **March 1**, at 6:30 pm, and will feature funeral preparation advice by Scott Andrews from Andrews Mortuary and Crematory. Kara Gansmann, a very experienced and wonderful elder-care lawyer from Wilmington, will talk about the legal matters that will confront our loved ones when we leave them. Again, with advance planning and preparation NOW, we can make our loved ones lives much easier.

If you are unable to make the March seminar, or would like to watch the February seminar, you may do so on St. Matthew's YouTube page. For questions about the seminars, or to learn more about Stephen Ministries, contact Pastor Sam, Ana Marie Jackson, Terry Miller, or Jon Lindsay.



Church Council Meeting - February 10, 2022

At the regular Church Council meeting, the following was approved:

- A motion from the Finance team that for the remainder of 2022, we allocate Thrivent Choice Dollars to the C-ing the Way Forward (Capital Reserve) Money Market account (3-600920) in order to bolster the account for renovation of the Administrative Offices.
- A motion from the Finance team for the finance option on our property/casualty insurance policy, which consists of a down payment of 20% (\$7,051.52) payable immediately, followed by 9 monthly installments of \$2,911.78 beginning March 1, 2022.
- Council elected Larry Troutman and Norma Troutman as Financial Secretaries.
- The following appointments were made: Kris Auch for a 2-yr term and Dave Davis for a 3-yr term to the Financial Audit Team; Janet Hall and Beverly Miller to the Pastoral Support Team for 3-yr terms; Carolyn Hooker to the Parish Records Audit Team for a 3-yr term; Peter Hoyer to the Seminary Scholarship Team for a 2-yr term

Council is still in need of 3 individuals to serve on the Long Range Planning Team for 2-yr terms. Please contact Beth Hales if you have an interest in serving.

<u>Operating Fund: Jan. 2022</u>		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Revenues:	34,178.41	34,178.41
Expenses:	<u>37,703.49</u>	<u>37,703.49</u>
Income/ (Loss)	(3,525.08)	(3,525.08)

Altar Flowers

The following dates are still available for altar flowers:

- April 3 (1 slot)
- June 12 (both slots)
- July 10 (1 slot), 17 (1 slot), and 24 (1 slot)
- August 14 (both slots), 21 and 28 (1 slot each)



Remember to fill out the yellow information sheet when you sign up with your dedication for the bulletin, and mark if you would like to take your flowers or donate them. If you simply want to dedicate them to the Glory of God, please note that on the form. Invoices for flowers will be mailed from the church at the beginning of each month.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Christkindlmarkt News



VOLUME 5

MARCH 2022

ISSUE 1

CKM is planning an **Easter Candy** sale to begin this month



We are running this sale in conjunction with **Family Promise of the Lower Cape Fear**. You may remember this as WIHN which is an organization to benefit homeless families. Our plan is to bring Easter joy to the homeless families, especially the children, by delivering Easter baskets to their program.

Please choose one or more of these options:

- #1 Make a purchase for yourself or a loved one.
- #2 Make a purchase and DONATE it back to CKM.
- #3 Make an outright donation to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and write "Easter basket donation" on the memo line.


If you participated in either the "Diaper Pad" sale in 2020 or the Tee-shirt sale in 2021, this fund-raiser will run along the same lines and both of those were a huge success. This is a Win/WIHN situation. Unfortunately, we are having supply chain issues and may not be able to get our usual products. Your best bet is Option #3 if you would like to help out. In any event, we will be providing something to our neighbors in need. We ask you to please be flexible and stay tuned for more information.



The products we hope to buy include the chocolate bunnies, eggs and chicks, and perhaps some Marzipan logs. The prices range from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

These were a *big hit* and a sell-out over the past two years. Please consider helping out and adding to those happy smiles.

We thank you and greatly appreciate your support.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Shrove Tuesday 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 5:00 Pancake Supper 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry Seminar	2 Ash Wednesday 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Ash Wed. Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Ash Wed. Euch. 8:00 Adult Choir	3 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	4	5 8:00 Lenten Prayer Retreat w/ Kelly Schumacher 11:00 Fellowship Team 6:00 Eucharist
6 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	7 9:00 Counting Team 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	8 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Faith Circle 1:00 Peace Circle 6:00 Girl Scouts 354 6:30 Joyful Noise	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 Finance Team 12:00 Lenten Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS/HS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	10 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 6:30 Council 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	11	12 Daylight Saving - Turn clocks ahead one hour. 6:00 Eucharist
13 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Servant Lunch and Training Event	14 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 6:30 Stephen Ministry	16 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Lenten Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	17 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	18	19 6:00 Eucharist
20 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30 Eucharist 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 12:30 Grief Support Group	21 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	22 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 Social Ministry 6:00 Girl Scouts 354 6:30 Joyful Noise	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Lenten Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 MS/HS Youth 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	24 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 11:30 OWL's Luncheon 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA	25 Hospice Meal	26 6:00 Eucharist
27 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30 Eucharist (C) 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	28 9:00 Counting Team 12:00 Conversations 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Midtown AA 7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal	29 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Girl Scouts 354	30 8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 Lenten Euch. 6:00 Crossways 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Choir	31 10:00 Crossways 10:00 Quilt Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Midtown AA		

Upcoming Worship and Events

April 2-3 -- Fifth Sunday in Lent, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am; First Communion Class.

April 3, 12:30 pm

April 4 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

April 6 -- Midweek Lenten Eucharist, 12:00 pm; Lenten Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

April 9-10 -- Palm Sunday, Eucharists 6:00 pm; 8:30 am, and 11:00 am; Grief Support Group, 12:30 pm

April 11 -- Holy Week Eucharist, 12:00 pm; Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

April 12 -- Holy Week Eucharist, 12:00 pm

April 13 -- Holy Week Eucharist, 12:00 pm

April 14 -- Maundy Thursday Eucharist, 12:00 and 7:00 pm

April 15 -- Good Friday Worship, 12:00 pm; Good Friday Tenebrae, 7:00 pm

April 16 -- Easter Vigil Eucharist, 6:00 pm

April 17 -- Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunrise Eucharist 6:30 am; Eucharists 8:30 am and 11:00 am

April 18 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

April 20 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

April 23-24 -- Second Sunday of Easter, 6:00 pm; 8:30 (Contemporary) and 11:00 am

April 25 -- Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm

April 27 -- Midweek Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 pm

April 30 -- Spring Yard Sale, 7:00 am

April 30-May 1 -- Third Sunday of Easter, 6:00 pm; 8:30, and 11:00 am